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WHEAT CROP INSURANCE NEWS

An interview between John A Bird, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and John C. Baker, Radio Service, broadcast Thursday, June 20, 1940, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour, over the blue network of the National Broadcasting Company.

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BAKER:

These days wheat farmers are thinking about the most important time of their year - the harvest. In Texas and Oklahoma farmers are out in the fields with their combines, working hard at the important job of getting that grain in the bin. In Kansas and Nebraska where the wheat is ripening fast the principal topic of street-corner discussion is what the yields may be.

And in connection with the harvest, we have some news today that is important to all wheat growers - about wheat crop insurance. Here is John A. Bird of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to give us that news.

BIRD:

Thanks, John. As a matter of fact I have two items of news on wheat crop insurance. No. 1 is adjustment of losses to the 1940 crop . . .

BAKER:

And the other is . . .

BIRD:

The 1941 wheat crop insurance program.

BAKER:

Adjustment of losses . . . and the next year's program. Those are the headlines, so now the stories.

BIRD:

John, you spoke about the importance of the harvest and what it means to farmers. Well, this year has been extremely hard on the winter wheat crop, and a lot of farmers won't have any wheat to harvest. The latest crop report shows that 24 percent of the acreage planted last fall - in hopes of a crop - has been abandoned. That's nearly 11 million acres of wheat that won't be harvested.

BAKER:

And that of course is where crop insurance comes in.

BIRD:

Right! Lots of the farmers had the foresight to take out crop insurance last fall. And right now county Triple-A committees are adjusting the losses those farmers suffered and the crop insurance Corporation is paying them indemnities to make up for their crop loss.

BAKER:

How many losses have been adjusted so far?

BIRD:

This work is just well started, but already 2,300 losses have been settled, and farmers have been paid 600,000 bushels.



(OVER)

BAKER:

Any estimate of what the total will be?

BIRD:

Not yet - but last year crop insurance provided income of 10 million bushels for 55,000 growers. Probably there will be more than that this year, as the crop has been hit harder and more farmers have insurance.

BAKER:

Well if the crop has been hit harder then it's a godsend that more of the growers had crop insurance. That rounds up the adjustment work, John. Now how about the highlights of that new program for 1941?

BIRD:

Coming right up. The Secretary of Agriculture has just signed the regulations for the crop insurance program for wheat planted for harvest in 1941, and this new program is now being presented to growers all over the country.

The 1941 program is almost exactly the same as the 1940 insurance, with a couple of exceptions. First, the closing date for winter wheat has been moved up to August 31. For spring wheat the deadline is February 28, 1941. Second, the yields and rates have been brought up to date for all farms.

BAKER:

Just a minute, John. That closing date - how much earlier is it?

BIRD:

It's two weeks to a month earlier than last year. Those deadlines are the last dates on which growers can apply for yield insurance at county Triple-A offices.

BAKER:

Another thing. Last year all applications had to be made before the crop was planted. Does that still hold true?

BIRD:

Yes, it does. All wheat applications must be made before the crop is seeded and not later than the deadlines. This means that winter wheat growers will have to make their insurance plans earlier this year.

BAKER:

For the benefit of those who may not have insured last year, would you outline just how a farmer gets insurance?

BIRD:

Sur. It just takes one operation. You see the county committees have been figuring out for all wheat farms the yields that farmers may insure and the premiums that they pay. These yields and rates are right up to date, reflecting the yields of the last harvest. Now - when a farmer wants to insure, all he has to do is to fill out an application and indicate how much wheat he is planting. The county committee can tell him just how much yield he may insure and what the premium will cost.

BAKER:

And the premium is paid at the same time, isn't it?

BIRD:

That's right. When the application is made. It can be paid in three ways: One - with a warehouse receipt or storage ticket for wheat; two - in the cash equivalent; or three - by requesting an advance against payments to be earned under the farm program. Then, when the county committee accepts the application and the farmer plants his crop - he's insured. He knows that next year, no matter what happens to his crop, he will have wheat income.

BAKER:

Thanks John Bird, for giving us the latest news on crop insurance.

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